AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A directory server system, comprising:

a front-end portion adapted to connect to a client computer;

a back-end portion with an embedded database; and

a mapping tree portion;

wherein the front-end portion comprises a core protocol connection responder configured to access information stored in the back-end portion, wherein the back-end portion is maintained in a logical representation by a directory information tree;

wherein the mapping tree portion identifies a location of information stored in the back-end portion in response to a request sent by the client computer[[.]]‚

wherein the back-end portion comprises a plurality of back-end plug-ins for database management.

2.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a graphical user interface backed by an administrative server configured to manage the directory server system.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a gateway allowing access and querying of the back-end portion from a web browser.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of database command line tools to manipulate the front-end portion and the back-end portion.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a network management protocol monitor.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the front-end portion manages communication between server-side software and a directory client program stored on the client computer.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the front-end portion functions as a daemon.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the front-end portion functions as a service.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the client computer is adapted to connect to the front-end portion using an encrypted connection.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of back-end plug-ins allow a directory administrator to manage and manipulate the information stored in the embedded database.

12.   (Currently Amended) A directory server system, comprising:

a front-end portion adapted to connect to a client computer;

a back-end portion with an embedded database;

a mapping tree portion;

a graphical user interface backed by an administrative server configured to manage the directory server system;

a gateway allowing access and querying of the back-end portion from a web browser;

a plurality of database command line tools to manipulate the front-end portion and the back-end portion; and

a network management protocol monitor;

wherein the front-end portion comprises a core protocol connection responder configured to access information stored in the back-end portion, wherein the back-end portion is maintained in a logical representation by a directory information tree;

wherein the mapping tree portion identifies a location of information stored in the back-end portion in response to a request sent by the client computer[[.]]ₐ

wherein the back-end portion comprises a plurality of back-end plug-ins for database management.

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer system to manage a directory server, comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

software instructions stored in the memory for enabling the computer system under control

of the processor, to perform:

receiving a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request from a client computer to

a front-end portion;

processing the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request to create a front-end

call;

sending the front-end call to a back-end portion;

processing the front-end call using a default database function to produce a result, wherein

the default database function comprises a mapping tree portion to identify a location

of information stored in the back-end portion in response to the Lightweight

Directory Access Protocol request sent by the client computer[[;]],

wherein the back-end portion comprises a plurality of back-end plug-ins for database

management;

passing the result to the front-end portion; and

sending the result from the front-end portion to the client computer.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method of processing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

request from a client computer using a directory server comprising:

sending a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request from the client computer to a front-

end portion;

processing the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request to create a front-end call;

sending the front-end call to a back-end portion;

processing the front-end call using a default database function to produce a result,

wherein, the default database function comprises a mapping tree portion to identify a

location of information stored in the back-end portion in response to the Lightweight

Directory Access Protocol request sent by the client computer[[;]],

wherein the back-end portion comprises a plurality of back-end plug-ins for database

management;

passing the result to the front-end portion; and

sending the result from the front-end portion to the client computer.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

managing communication by the front-end portion between server-side software and a

directory client program stored on the client computer.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

managing the directory server system using a graphical user interface backed by an

administrative server.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

accessing and querying the back-end portion from a web browser with a gateway.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

manipulating the front-end portion and the back-end portion with a plurality of database

command line tools.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

reporting activity to a network console workstation by a network management protocol

monitor.

20.   (Currently Amended)   A method of processing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

request from a client computer using a directory server comprising:

sending a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request from the client computer to a front-

end portion;

processing the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request to create a front-end call;

sending the front-end call to a back-end portion;

processing the front-end call using a default database function to produce a result,

wherein, the default database function comprises a mapping tree portion to identify a location of information stored in the back-end portion in response to the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request sent by the client computer;

passing the result to the front-end portion;

sending the result from the front-end portion to the client computer;

managing communication by the front-end portion between server-side software and a directory client program stored on the client computer;

managing the directory server using a graphical user interface backed by an administrative server;

accessing and querying the back-end portion from a web browser with a gateway;

manipulating the front-end portion and the back-end portion with a plurality of database command line tools[[;]]ᵢ

wherein the back-end portion comprises a plurality of back-end plug-ins for database management; and

reporting activity to a network console workstation by a network management protocol monitor.

21.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request from a client computer using a directory server comprising:

means for sending a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request from the client computer to a front-end portion;

means for processing the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request to create a front-end call;

means for sending the front-end call to a back-end portion;

means for processing the front-end call using a default database function to produce a result,

wherein, the default database function comprises a mapping tree portion to identify a location of information stored in the back-end portion in response to the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol request sent by the client computer[[;]]ᵢ

wherein the back-end portion comprises a plurality of back-end plug-ins for database management;

means for passing the result to the front-end portion; and

means for sending the result from the front-end portion to the client computer.

22.   (New)   The system of claim 1, wherein the core component connection responder is configured to perform at least one selected from the group consisting of roles and class of service.